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Wednesday, December 16, 2009



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INSIDE TODAY

PEOPLE & ARTS

ROBERTS OBIT



In this Thursday, May 7, 2009 file photo Evangelist Oral Roberts smiles after being honored on the floor of the Oklahoma Senate in Oklahoma City. A spokesman for Oral Roberts on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009 said the evangelist and university founder has died at age 91.

Read more on Page B10

SPORTS NEWS

ALL AMERICAN



Heisman Trophy winner, Alabama running back Mark Ingram (22), was a unanimous first-team selection voted to The Associated Press All-America team that was released on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009.

Read more on Page A14

SECTION B

Local News	1
People & Arts	10
Business	11
Latino	14



President Barack Obama, center, makes a statement on health care reform after meeting with Senators, Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009, at the White House in Washington. From left are, Senate Banking Committee Chairman Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn.; Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont.; the president; and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev.

Associated Press

Obama: Senate near passing health care bill

DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama met privately with Senate Democrats on Tuesday and then declared they were “on the precipice” of enacting U.S. health care legislation that has eluded administrations and lawmakers for decades.

Flanked by the senators, the president said differences still remain over the details of the bill, but he spoke in highly favorable terms about the measure that party leaders hope to pass by the Dec. 25 Christmas holiday.

The measure includes “all the criteria I laid out” in a speech to a joint session of Congress earlier in the year, he said. “It is deficit-neutral, it bends the cost curve, it covers 30 million Americans who don’t have health insurance and it has extraordinary insurance reforms.”

Obama has made health care reform a top domestic priority in his first year in office and its passage could help his Democratic party in next year’s congressional elections. The United States is the only developed nation that does not have a comprehensive health care plan for all its citizens.

If the Senate bill passes it still has to be merged with a similar measure in the House of Representatives and then voted on again by both bodies before the legislation reaches Obama’s desk.

His meeting with lawmakers followed an intense two days in which Democrats struggled — apparently successfully — to keep the legislation moving forward despite a flare-up over a proposal to expand Medicare, the government health care program for the elderly.

Continued on Next Page

Illinois prison to get Guantanamo detainees



In this Monday, Nov. 16, 2009 file photo, an aerial view of the Thomson Correctional Center is seen in Thomson, Ill. The White House plans to announce Tuesday Dec. 15, 2009, that a rural Illinois prison will be acquired by the federal government to become the new home for a limited number of Guantanamo Bay detainees.

Associated Press

Read Page 3



Lava cascades down the slopes of Mayon volcano in Legazpi city, Albay province, at dawn Tuesday Dec. 15, 2009 about 500 kilometers (310 miles) south of Manila, Philippines. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, PHIVOLCS, has raised the five-alert level to three following increased activity of the country’s most active volcano and residents are prohibited from venturing into the 6-kilometer (4 miles) permanent danger zone. In December 2006 ash deposits from a previous eruption rolled down its slopes at the onslaught of a typhoon killing more than a thousand residents living around the cone-shaped volcano.

Associated Press

Read more on Page 7

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Popularity of texting edging out cell phone calls



A driver checks his phone while sitting in his car in New York City, December 10, 2009. Already 19 states and the District of Columbia ban texting by all drivers, while 9 others prohibit it by young drivers.

Reuters Photo

By HOPE YEN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — R u kidding

me? Americans punched out more than 110 billion text messages in December 2008,

double the number in the last month of 2007, as the shorthand communication becomes a popular alternative to cell phone calls.

The nation's 270 million cell phone subscribers each sent out an average of 407 text messages in December 2008, according to government statistics released Tuesday by the Census Bureau. That's more than double the 188 messages sent by the average cell subscriber during the same period in 2007. The figures did not break down the texting by age, but the overall numbers understate the thousands of texts sent each month by many teens — balanced out by older folks who don't text as much.

"We are seeing a clear trend of huge increases in text messaging," said Amanda Lenhart, senior research specialist at the Pew Internet and American Life Project. "If teens are a leader for America, then we are moving to a text-based communication system. For them, there is less interest in talking." Her research found the average teen currently sends more than 2,000 text messages per month. About two-thirds of all teens use text messaging, mostly due to its simplicity as well as the privacy of being able to communicate without being overheard. Lenhart predicted that texting would continue to grow as parents begin using it as an easy way to reach their kids. At the same time, the average length of a cell phone call declined last year to 2.3 minutes. That's the shortest chat time since the 1990s, before mobile devices and cheap calling plans became widely available to everyday consumers. The peak talk time came in 2004, when a caller on average chatted for 3.05 minutes.

The monthly cell phone bill has remained largely flat over the years, at \$50.

The data are part of the Census Bureau's annual Statistical Abstract of the United States, a compendium of numbers quantifying just about every aspect of everyday life. The

agency assembles the latest statistics from government and private sources so researchers, academics and businesses can find them in one place.

Among other findings:

More than one-third, or 37 percent, of employers allowed all or most workers to have "flextime" by periodically changing start and quitting times. Eight percent of employees were permitted to compress the workweek, 8 percent to share jobs, and 57 percent to return to work gradually after childbirth.

Despite the recession, U.S. residents last year spent over \$53.4 billion on lottery tickets, up from \$52.4 billion in the previous year. About \$3 of every \$5 went toward instant scratch-off tickets.

Russia had the deadliest roads in the world in 2007, suffering 235 fatalities per 1 million residents. Poland was next at 147, followed by Estonia at 146 and Slovenia at 145. The U.S. had about 136 road fatalities per 1 million residents.

Alternative medicine most commonly used by U.S. adults in 2007 included nonvitamin and natural products (17.7 percent); deep breathing exercises (12.7 percent); and meditation (9.4 percent). Also popular were chiropractic work (8.6 percent); massage (8.3 percent); and yoga (6.1 percent).

Tourists enjoy White House breakfast with Obamas

BEN EVANS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was not a state dinner, and they did not crash it on purpose.

Still, a couple who showed up at the White House a day early for a tour somehow wound up at an invitation-only breakfast with President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle.

It left to the White House once again to explain how people who were not on an event guest list wound up being ushered into the presidential mansion anyway.

The improbable adventure of Harvey and Paula Darden, Obama supporters from Georgia, took place on Veterans Day, two weeks before Virginia socialites Tareq and Michaela Salahy infamously crashed the Obamas' state dinner for Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

The Dardens mistakenly showed up a day early for a tour scheduled through their congressman.

The White House and Secret Service both said the Dardens went through the appropriate security screenings and were allowed into the breakfast as a courtesy because there were no public tours the day they arrived.

That explanation was news to Harvey Darden, 67, a retired pharmacist, who said he and his wife never were told about

the breakfast.

They thought they were simply starting their tour until they were ushered into the East Room, offered a buffet spread and told they would be meeting the president.

"The further we got into the White House, the more surprised we were," Darden told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "My wife looked at me, and I looked at her, and I said, 'You know, I don't know if we're in the right place.'"

They approached a White House aide with their concern that they had veered off course but were told to "just go with the flow," Darden said.

"I felt kind of funny because I was the only man in the room that wasn't dressed in a coat and tie," he said. "I was just a plain tourist."

Secret Service spokesman Ed Donovan said agents performed the same screening procedures on the Dardens that were used for other breakfast guests: They checked the Dardens' names and did a criminal background check — steps that were not taken for the Salahis at the Nov. 24 state dinner.

Because the Dardens were able to pass Secret Service vetting, they were allowed to attend the breakfast for veterans as a "nice gesture," White House spokesman Nick Shapiro said.

He added that it is not unusual for White House staff to take people who are cleared in for tours to other events if there is space, including Marine One arrivals, East Room events and Rose Garden ceremonies. Shapiro said the White House Office of Public Engagement, which Obama created to engage citizens in White House activities, was responsible for clearing in the Dardens, as well as the other breakfast guests.

The social office handled admittances to the Indian state dinner.



Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., talks to members of the media on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009.

Associated Press

HEALTH CARE

Continued from Front Page

Sen. Joe Lieberman, an independent who usually votes with Democrats, announced on Sunday he opposed the proposal, and he threatened to join Republicans in voting against the overall measure if it stayed in the bill. Democrats are ready to jettison the provision, and Lieberman told reporters that assuming they do — and that any government plan or Medicare expansion stays out of the bill — "then I'm going to be in a position where I can say what I've wanted to say all along: that I'm ready to vote for health care reform."

That left Sen. Ben Nelson, a Democrat, the only potential holdout among the 60 senators who are members of the Democratic caucus. He has been seeking changes to increase restrictions on abortion coverage in a new health insurance marketplace the bill would establish.

Democrats need 60 votes to overcome threatened Republican delaying tactics in the 100-member Senate.

The White House meeting unfolded as Democrats awaited a final cost analysis from the Congressional Budget Office on the latest version of the bill, and the full Senate pointed toward a vote on an amendment to permit the importation of prescription drugs from Canada and elsewhere. The U.S. drug industry vehemently opposes this measure.



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Illinois prison to get Guantanamo detainees

HENRY C. JACKSON

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Taking an important step on the difficult path to closing the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, President Barack Obama has directed the federal government to acquire a little used state prison in rural Illinois to be the new home for a limited number of terror suspects held at Guantanamo.

The federal government will acquire Thomson Correctional Center in Thomson, Illinois, and transform the prison in a sleepy town into a prison that meets “supermax standards” of security, according to a letter sent to Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn and signed by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, Attorney General Eric Holder and Director of National Intelligence Dennis C. Blair.

According to the letter, “Federal departments and agencies, including the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice, and Defense, will work closely with state and local law enforcement authorities to identify and mitigate any risks,” at the prison.

Administration officials as well as Illinois Sen. Richard Durbin and Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn will make an official announcement at the White House later Tuesday. A Durbin aide said the facility in Thomson would house federal inmates and no more than 100 detainees from Guantanamo Bay. Republicans were quick to criticize the administration’s plan.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said the American people “already have rejected bringing terrorists to U.S. soil.” He accused the administration of failing to explain how transferring the detainees would keep the public safer than keeping

them offshore in Cuba.

The facility in Thomson had emerged as a clear front-runner after Illinois officials, led by Durbin, enthusiastically embraced the idea of turning a near-dormant prison over to federal officials.

Sen. Roland Burris, an Illinois Democrat, said Tuesday he had “full confidence that the facility will hold these terrorism suspects safely and securely.”

In a statement, Burris said that with Illinois struggling with 11 percent unemployment, the transfer will be “a great economic benefit to the state by creating over 3,000 well-paying jobs and bringing in valuable federal dollars to fund local facility operations.”

The White House has been coy about its selection process, but on Friday a draft memo leaked to a conservative Web site that seemed to indicate officials were homing in on Thomson.

The Thomson Correctional Center was one of several potential sites evaluated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons to potentially house detainees from the Navy-run prison at Guantanamo Bay.

Obama has faced some resistance to the idea of housing terrorism suspects in the United States, but in Thomson many have welcomed the prospect as a potential economic engine.

To be sure, Thomson will not solve all the administration’s Guantanamo-related problems. There still will be dozens of detainees who are not relocated to Thomson, other legal issues and potential resistance from Congress.

Thomson is a symbolic step, however, a clear sign that the United States is working to find a new place to hold detainees from Guantanamo. □



A sign stands in the snow outside the Thomson Correctional Center, Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009, in Thomson, Ill. President Obama today ordered the federal government to acquire the state prison to be the new home for a limited number of terror suspects now held at the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



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In this Dec. 10, 2009 photo, Mexican immigrant Jose Garcia prepares flowers at a supermarket where he works in Manhattan, New York. Garcia, 48, moved to the US 10 years ago and says he plans to return to Mexico due to the economy.

Associated Press

SUZANNE GAMBOA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON

(AP)

— Hispanic, black, Asian and other House lawmakers backing immigration overhaul called Tuesday for legalizing illegal immigrants in the U.S., despite a weakened economy and joblessness.

The coalition of lawmakers said Tuesday immigration reform can protect American workers as well as bring into the mainstream economy productive immigrant workers who have lived in the shadows because of their illegal status.

“For those who say that given the state of our economy,

Bill would give immigrants undocumented legal status

given the unemployment rate, this is not the time, I would say to you there is no wrong or right time. There is a moral obligation,” said Rep. Lydia Velazquez, a Democrat and chairwoman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Rep. Luis Gutierrez, a Democrat who has become a leader of a multiethnic coalition of immigration reform backers, said immigration reform opponents “will use it as a wedge issue and will blame everything from unemployment to rising health care costs on immigrants.”

“The immigrant blame game is constant,” Gutierrez told a packed news conference.

Immigration reform also

means tougher penalties for employers who hire illegal workers, rules requiring foreign investors given U.S. visas to create jobs in this country, restrictions on hiring of foreign workers, he said. Although there has been a report of a better-than-expected increase in production in the U.S. economy, experts say it remains weak and recovery continues to be slow.

That has led some to suggest that early next year—as some are expecting—is not the time to bring up immigration reform and certainly not to legalize illegal immigrants.

“Illegal immigrants currently occupy 8 million jobs. Those stolen jobs rightfully belong to citizens and legal immigrants. We could cut the unemployment rate in half simply by enforcing immigration laws!” said Rep. Lamar Smith, the top Republican on the House

Judiciary Committee.

An immigration reform bill proposed by Gutierrez seeks to legalize undocumented immigrants by requiring them to register with the federal government, pay a \$500 fine for each adult, learn English, pass background checks and meet other requirements. They then are eligible for a six-year visa and when that is done a green card.

It contains numerous other proposals. The bill was unveiled Tuesday, but lawmakers acknowledged the Senate will vote first. There is some skepticism whether Democrats will be willing to take up immigration reform early next year so soon after a tough health care debate and with 2010 elections gearing up.

“What we are doing is getting ready so when they are done with their work, we can quickly act,” Gutierrez said. □



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Washington council votes to legalize gay marriage

JESSICA GRESKO,

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington's city council voted Tuesday to legalize gay marriage, giving supporters a victory after a string of recent defeats elsewhere in the U.S. and sending the issue to Congress, which has final say over laws in the capital. Mayor Adrian Fenty has promised to sign the bill, which passed 11-2, and gay couples could begin marrying as early as March if Congress allows it to become law. Majority Democratic congressional leaders have suggested they are reluctant to get involved, though gay marriage opponents say they will try to get it overturned either in Congress or at the polls.

The bill had overwhelming support among council members and its passage was no surprise. Two members voted "I do" when their names came up, and when the vote finished a packed

chamber erupted into cheers and clapping.

"Make no mistake, 2009 has been one hell of a year for marriage equality," said David Catania, who introduced the bill and is one of two openly gay council members.

The "no" votes included former mayor Marion Barry, now a council member, who voted, "I don't."

If the bill becomes law, Washington will join the states of Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts and Vermont in issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. They will be able to wed in New Hampshire starting in January.

Gay marriage supporters have had less success elsewhere recently. Maine voters overturned the state's same-sex marriage law last month. Earlier this month, the New York state Senate rejected a bill that would have allowed gay couples to marry. And New Jersey's legislature, which had

been working on a same-sex marriage bill, postponed a recent vote when the measure appeared headed for defeat.

Tuesday's vote in Washington came after several months of discussion, including two marathon council hearings at which some 250 witnesses testified.

Opponents included the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, which said it might have to stop providing adoptions and other services because the law would force it to extend benefits to same-sex couples. But most who testified in this overwhelmingly Democratic city were supporters. □



Edward Grandis, left, and his partner Juan D. Rondon, react as the District of Columbia city council votes to approve gay marriage in their final vote on a bill legalizing the unions in Washington, on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009. Gay couples could be marrying in the nation's capital as early as March.

Associated Press

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In this Dec. 31, 2008 file photo, then Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, center, looks at the damage to the classroom of a school, caused by a rocket fired by Palestinian militants from Gaza, in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba. Israel says Britain had issued an arrest warrant for former Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni. A foreign ministry statement on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009 provided no details but urged Britain to make such legal actions impossible.

Associated Press

Britain vows to end arrest threats to Israeli VIPs

GREGORY KATZ

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — Britain pledged Tuesday to reform a peculiar legal power that lets judges order the arrest of visiting politicians and generals — a threat currently focused on Israeli visitors that, one day, might be invoked against Barack Obama or Vladimir Putin.

Lawyers working with Palestinian activists in recent years have sought the arrest of senior Israeli civilian and military figures under terms of “universal jurisdiction.” This ill-defined legal concept empowers judges to issue arrest warrants for visiting officials accused of war crimes in a foreign conflict.

Their latest target is Tzipi Livni, Israel’s former foreign minister and current opposition leader, who staunchly defends Israel’s invasion of the Gaza Strip. Israel’s government confirmed Tuesday that she canceled a planned London trip this month after her office received news of a secretly issued arrest warrant awaiting her arrival. Foreign Secretary David Miliband later announced that Britain would no longer tolerate legal harassment of Israeli officials in this fashion.

Speaking after meeting Israel’s London ambassador Tuesday night, Miliband said the British law permitting judges to issue arrest warrants against foreign dignitaries “without any prior knowledge or advice by a prosecutor” must be reviewed and reformed.

Miliband said the British government was determined that arrest threats against visitors of Livni’s stature would not happen again.

“Israel is a strategic partner and a close friend of the United Kingdom. We are determined to protect and develop these ties,” Miliband said. “Israeli leaders — like leaders from other countries — must be able to visit and have a proper dialogue with the British government.”

Previously, British judges in private have accepted petitions from anti-Israeli activists to arrest Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak and Israeli army generals when they set foot in England. Barak successfully argued he

enjoyed diplomatic immunity as a serving government leader, while several other Israelis have made U-turns for home when informed of the warrants. Legal experts in England and Israel say “universal jurisdiction” could be abused endlessly to harass, if not effectively incarcerate, any high-profile visitor who oversaw a military or anti-terrorist operation.

“Why not use this against Vladimir Putin over Russia’s role in Chechnya? There is no end to it,” said Yehuda Blum, Israel’s former ambassador to the United Nations, who teaches law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. “The abuse and misuse of this concept of universal jurisdiction should be discontinued.” Experts said the legal concept would face decisive scrutiny if, instead of targeting Israelis, a judge’s arrest warrant targeted a past or current American or European head of state.

Eugene Rogan, director of the Middle East Center at Oxford University in England, said the demands of global diplomacy required leaders to be able to travel abroad without facing arrest threats. He noted that American officials had refrained from taking part in International Criminal Court proceedings in The Hague, Netherlands, in fear that they might face arrest threats themselves. “Pressures in the long run will weigh against this kind of use of international law because it will inhibit political actions,” Rogan said. Sonya Sceats, an international law expert at the Chatham House think tank in London, said the Livni arrest threat throws into bold relief how much ambiguity exists in Britain’s laws on universal jurisdiction. “This area of law is still quite unsettled,” she said, noting it might even be invoked against current government leaders despite their presumed state of diplomatic immunity. Spain and Britain jointly pioneered the universal jurisdiction concept when, in 1998, Britain executed a Spanish arrest warrant for former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet. British authorities kept Pinochet under house arrest in London until releasing him on humanitarian grounds in 2000. □

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20,000 evacuated as Philippine volcano oozes lava

JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press Writer

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippines' most active volcano oozed lava and shot up plumes of ash Tuesday, forcing thousands of people to evacuate their homes and face the possibility of a bleak Christmas in a shelter.

State volcanologists raised the alert level on the cone-shaped, 8,070-foot (2,460-meter) Mayon volcano overnight to two steps below a major eruption after ash explosions. Dark orange lava fragments glowed in the dark as they trickled down the mountain slope overnight. Renato Solidum, head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said the activity could get worse in coming days.

"It's already erupting," Solidum told The Associated Press.

More than 20,000 people were evacuated to safety by nightfall Tuesday, said Gov. Joey Salceda of Albay province, where Mayon is located about 210 miles (340 kilometers) southeast of Manila.

The first of 20 vehicles, including army trucks, were sent to villages to take residents to schools and other temporary housing, provincial emergency management

official Jukes Nunez said.

"It's 10 days before Christmas. Most likely people will be in evacuation centers, and if Mayon's activity won't ease down we will not allow them to return to their homes," Nunez said. "It's difficult and sad, especially for children." Residents in Albay are used to moving away from Mayon. Nearly 50,000 people live in a five-mile (eight-kilometer) radius around the mountain, and some villages were evacuated last month when the volcano spewed ash. Mayon last erupted in 2006, and about 30,000 people were moved. Another eruption in 1993 killed 79 people.

Salceda said Tuesday that he has placed the central province under a "state of imminent disaster," which will make it easier for him to draw and use emergency funds.

Although the alarm has been sounded, life continued normally in many laid-back farming villages near the restive volcano. Throngs of farmers flocked to the town hall in Guinobatan, which lies near the danger zone, for a Christmas party, then headed home bearing gifts.

Village leader Romeo Opiana said the 249 residents in his farming community of Maninila, near the volcano,

readied packs of clothes but no one had left. An army truck was parked nearby, ready to haul people if the threat grows.

"We're ready, but we're not really alarmed," said Opiana, 66. He could not remember how many times he had seen Mayon's eruptions since childhood.

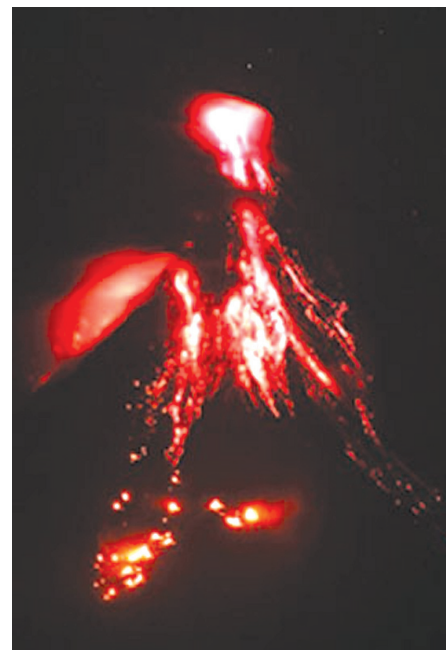
Provincial governor Salceda said he had decided to cancel a trip to Copenhagen, where he was to attend the U.N. climate conference to discuss his province's experience with typhoons and other natural

disasters.

He said he would appeal for foreign aid to deal with the expected influx of displaced villagers to emergency shelters. □

Lava cascades down the slopes of Mayon volcano in Legazpi city, Albay province, Monday Dec. 14, 2009, about 500 kilometers (310 miles) south of Manila, Philippines.

Associated Press

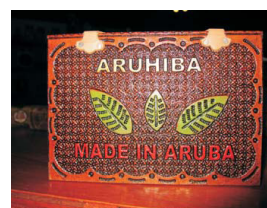


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Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarijn Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



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U.S. gives Mexico five helicopters to aid drug war



Mexico's Undersecretary for North America Julian Ventura, left, receives a model of a helicopter from U.S. Assistant to the President Barack Obama for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism John O. Brennan, second from left, during a ceremony in Mexico City, Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009. Second from right, U.S. ambassador to Mexico Carlos Pascual and at right, U.S. Air Force Gen. Victor E. Renuart Jr.

E. EDUARDO CASTILLO

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — U.S. officials delivered five helicopters to Mexico on Tuesday to help the country in its fight

against drug cartels.

The aircraft are part of more than \$604 million worth of vehicles and equipment that the U.S. plans to give Mexico in the coming months.

Associated Press

"The helicopters that we are handing over today are very important substantively and symbolically in our cooperation, but they are only a part of the chain of many important milestones in meeting these challenges," said John Brennan, assistant to President Barack Obama for homeland security and counterterrorism.

In addition to the more than \$1.1 billion worth of aid the U.S. has pledged to provide Mexico, Brennan said U.S. and Mexican officials are planning new programs to help Mexico professionalize its police forces and strengthen its justice system. U.S. officials are fighting drug cartels on both sides of the border, he said. "We understand that the United States has a co-responsibility in meeting the social, international and regional challenges posed by the international cartels and narcotics trafficking," Brennan said.

The Mexican air force will use the five Bell 412 helicopters for transportation and reconnaissance,

officials said.

The helicopters, worth \$66 million, were funded by the U.S. government's \$1.4 billion Merida Initiative, which provides resources to help Mexico, Central American nations, the Dominican Republic and Haiti combat drug trafficking.

The funds will pay for equipment such as aircraft and improved law enforcement communications networks as well as technical training to improve justice systems and expand anti-gang programs. Since taking office in 2006, Mexican President Felipe Calderon has deployed tens of thousands of soldiers and federal police across the country seeking to crush the cartels, an offensive that has earned praise from Washington but also led to a surge in violence. When the U.S. Congress approved the first \$400 million aid installment in June 2008, more than 4,000 people had died in Mexico's drug-related violence under Calderon's watch. Three years later, the death toll stands at more than 14,000. □







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Japan needs more time for decision on U.S. base

SHINO YUASA,
Associated Press Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Japan needs several more months to decide on the relocation of a major U.S. military base on the southern island of Okinawa, Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama said Tuesday, a delay likely to frustrate Washington.

The U.S. had hoped for a resolution by year-end, but Hatoyama said a hasty decision would be irresponsible.

Okinawa residents complain about base-related noise, pollution and crime, and many want the airfield closed and its functions moved off the island entirely.

A 2006 reorganization plan, made under the previous conservative government, was aimed at lightening the load on Okinawa, which hosts more than half the 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan under

a security pact forged after World War II.

In Washington, the U.S. Marine Corps commandant said Japan's decision to delay the relocation of the U.S. military base was unfortunate. Gen. James Conway told reporters Tuesday that moving forward on the base movement is "absolutely vital to the defense that we provide for the entire region."

State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley offered a more muted response, saying President Barack Obama's administration was willing to give Japan a little more time to deal with what he calls a complex issue. But he said talks would not be indefinite. The delay in settling the dispute over U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma also appears to be raising tensions within Hatoyama's coalition

government. Members of his Cabinet are split over the base's future.

Under the plan, Futenma was to be moved to Nago, a less crowded part of northern Okinawa, but Hatoyama has said the relocation site could be changed — perhaps even off the island.

Part of the proposal involves moving about 8,000 Marines from Okinawa to the U.S. territory of Guam by 2014, but the U.S. military says that plan cannot move forward until Futenma's replacement facility is finalized.

"We all understand the weight of the current agreement," Hatoyama said. "We need time on the basis of several months."

Tensions on Okinawa over the huge military presence go back for decades, but a furor erupted in 1996 when



Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada, center, visits Camp Foster in Okinawa, Japan, during his inspection tour Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009. Okada toured the southern island of Okinawa to meet with local officials to work out a compromise over the relocation of the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, a major U.S. Marine base, that has become the center of a dispute with Washington.

Associated Press

three U.S. servicemen were convicted of raping a 12-year-old girl. Adding to the discontent was a 2004 crash of a U.S. helicopter that burst into flames on a university campus, although it caused no injuries on the ground.

Hatoyama, whose party came to power after a landslide election victory in August,

has promised that Tokyo would adopt a less subservient relationship with Washington, but has also stressed the U.S. security alliance was the cornerstone of Japan's diplomacy.

Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada said he met Tuesday with U.S. Ambassador John Roos to keep him updated. □



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Evangelist Oral Roberts dies in Calif. at age 91

TULSA, Okla. — Oral Roberts, the evangelist who rose from humble tent revivals to found a multimillion-dollar ministry and a university bearing his name, died Tuesday. He was 91.

Roberts died of complications from pneumonia in Newport Beach, Calif., according to his spokesman, A. Larry Ross. The evangelist was hospitalized after a fall on Saturday. He had survived two heart attacks in the 1990s and a broken hip in 2006.

Roberts was a pioneer on two fronts—he helped bring spirit-filled charismatic Christianity into the mainstream and took his trademark revivals to television, a new frontier for religion.

Roberts overcame tuberculosis at age 17, and credited that triumph with leading him to become one of the country's most famous ministers.

He gave up a local pastorate in Enid in 1947 to enter an evangelistic ministry in Tulsa to pray for the healing of the whole person — the body, mind and spirit. The philosophy led many to call him a “faith healer,” a label he rejected with the comment: “God heals — I don’t.”

By the 1960s and ‘70s, he was reaching millions around the world through radio, television, publications and personal appearances. He remained on TV into the new century, co-hosting the program, “Miracles Now,” with son Richard. He published dozens of books and conducted hundreds of crusades. A famous photograph showed him working at a desk with a sign on it reading, “Make no little plans here.”

He credited his oratorical skills to his faith, saying, “I become anointed with God’s word, and the spirit of the Lord builds up in me like a coiled spring. By the time I’m ready to go on, my mind is razor-sharp. I know exactly what I’m going to say and I’m feeling like a lion.”

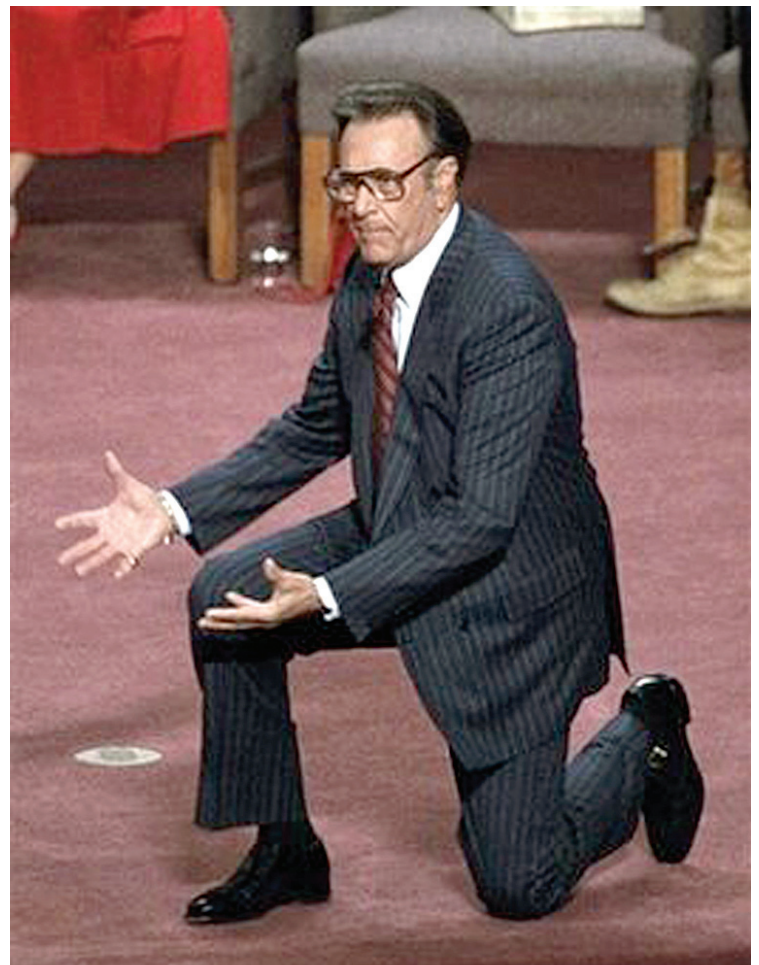
Unity of body, mind and spirit became the theme of Oral Roberts University. The campus is a Tulsa landmark, with its space-age buildings laden with gold paint, including a 200-foot prayer tower and a 60-foot bronze statue of praying hands.

His ministry hit upon rocky times in the 1980s. There was controversy over his City of Faith medical center,

a \$250 million investment that eventually folded, and Roberts’ widely ridiculed proclamation that God would “call me home” if he failed to meet a fundraising goal of \$8 million. A law school he founded also was shuttered.

Semiretired in recent years and living in California, he returned to Tulsa, Okla., in October 2007 as scandal roiled Oral Roberts University. His son, Richard Roberts, who succeeded him as ORU president, faced allegations of spending university money on shopping sprees and other luxuries at a time the institution was more than \$50 million in debt.

Richard Roberts resigned as president in November 2007, marking the first time since Oral Roberts University was chartered in 1963 that a member of the Roberts family would not be at its helm. The rocky period for the evangelical school was eased by billionaire Oklahoma City businessman Mart Green donated \$70 million and helped run the school in the interim, pledging to restore the public’s trust. By the fall of 2009, things were looking up, with officials saying tens



FILE - In this April 5, 1987 file photo, evangelist Oral Roberts gives a sermon to members of the Church on the Rock, in Rockwall, Texas. Evangelist Oral Roberts, who rose from tent revivals to found a multimillion-dollar organization and an Oklahoma university bearing his name, died Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009. He was 91.

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

of millions of dollars worth of debt had been paid off and Oral Roberts attended the ceremony when the school’s enrollment was up slightly. new president, Mark Rutland, That September, a frail-looking was formally inaugurated. □



FILE - In this Sunday, June 21, 2009 file photo, British actor Sacha Baron Cohen, who plays the part of Bruno, poses in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin as part of promotional activities of the movie ‘Bruno.’ A Palestinian shopkeeper and father portrayed as a terrorist in the movie ‘Bruno’ is suing film star Sacha Baron Cohen, David Letterman and others for libel and slander. The lawsuit filed last week by Ayman Abu Aita in District of Columbia federal court seeks \$110 million in damages.

(AP Photo/Maya Hitij, File)

DA: Letterman suspect sought to mask blackmail

NEW YORK — Prosecutors say a TV producer accused of trying to blackmail David Letterman told the comedian’s lawyer that he needed money to visit his son and would mask the transaction as a business deal.

The Manhattan district attorney’s office on Tuesday urged a judge to reject Robert “Joe” Halderman’s claims that his conduct wasn’t a crime.

Halderman wants a judge to toss out the attempted grand larceny case, which prompted the “Late Show” host to acknowledge sexual affairs with staffers.

Prosecutors say Halderman demanded \$2 million in hush money after issuing a threat styled as a movie synopsis exposing Letterman’s personal life. Halderman says he was simply shopping a screenplay.

Halderman’s lawyer had no immediate response to Tuesday’s filing. □

House honors Miles Davis’ “Kind of Blue”

WASHINGTON — Fifty years after jazz legend Miles Davis recorded “Kind of Blue,” the House voted Tuesday to honor the landmark album’s contribution to the genre.

Davis collaborated on the record with saxophonists John Coltrane and Julian “Cannonball” Adderley, pianists Bill Evans and Wynton Kelly, bassist Paul Chambers and drummer Jimmy Cobb.

Rep. John Conyers, a Michigan Democrat who sponsored the measure, said the group “made musical history and changed the artistic landscape of this country and in some ways the world.” The resolution recognizing the album’s 50th anniversary passed on a 409-0 vote.

Columbia Records released the album in August 1959. The original album — only 37 minutes — had a huge impact that extended beyond jazz to other types of music — from rock musicians such as the Allman Brothers and Carlos Santana to minimalist composers like Steve Reich and Philip Glass. Davis, one of the greatest trumpeters in jazz history, died of a stroke in 1991 at age 65. He was renowned for morphing his cool jazz into fusion and experimental sounds that later gave way to jazz funk and hip-hop grooves. Cobb is the only musician from the “Kind of Blue” album who is still alive. □



Spike in wholesale inflation sends stocks lower



FILE - In this Oct. 28, 2009 file photo, oil traders work in the options pit on the floor of the New York Mercantile Exchange. Stocks traded mixed Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009, after wholesale inflation rose more than expected in November, led by a surge in energy costs.

By **TIM PARADIS**,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The stock market fell from 14-month highs and Treasuries slipped Tuesday after inflation rose faster than expected last month.

Stocks lost ground late in the day after General Electric Co. forecast that revenue and earnings would be flat in 2010.

Major stocks indexes slid 0.5 percent, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which fell 49 points.

Trading was subdued as Federal Reserve policymakers gathered for a two-day meeting on interest rates. The Fed isn't expected to raise rates from their record low level, but the day's economic reports brought reminders that the central bank could be forced to raise rates sooner than expected to keep inflation at bay.

The government said wholesale prices jumped 1.8 percent last month, more than double the

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)

gain analysts expected. Core inflation, which excludes often-volatile food and energy costs, rose 0.5 percent, the biggest increase in more than a year.

Analysts said the increase in food and energy costs was likely a concern for Fed officials.

"They're the twin pistons of inflation," said Christopher Wolf, managing partner and co-chief investment officer at Cogo Wolf Asset Management LLC in San Francisco.

Meanwhile, the Fed said industrial production rose 0.8 percent in November, the biggest gain since August. The rise in production meant factories ran at a higher capacity. The portion of capacity being used remains below average, but if factories start seeing demand increase prices could rise.

The reports put inflation on investors' screens. If prices start to rise too quickly the Fed could be forced to raise rates and risk choking off a nascent

economic recovery.

"There is a fair chance that the Fed is going to have to start putting some brakes on the economy," Wolf said, adding that he doesn't expect any immediate actions from policymakers.

Higher rates would help shore up the dollar, which rose Tuesday, but has fallen against other major currencies since stocks began rising in March. It could also trip up the stock market as traders realign their holdings.

Stocks have slowed their nine-month advance in December as traders look to lock in gains for the year and seek clues about what might be able to drive the market in 2010. The benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index has jumped 63.8 percent from a 12-year low in March on relief that the economy was stabilizing. Analysts say investors will need substantive signs that the economy is improving to extend the gains next year.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow fell 49.05, or 0.5 percent, to 10,452.00.

The S&P 500 index fell 6.18, or 0.6 percent, to 1,107.93, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 11.05, or 0.5 percent, to 2,201.05.

The Dow and S&P 500 index closed Monday at their highest levels since October 2008 as concerns eased about global debt problems.

Bond prices fell, pushing yields higher. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.60 percent from 3.56 percent late Monday.

The dollar rose against other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

Crude oil rose \$1.18 to settle at \$70.69 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. □



FILE - In this Feb. 23, 2009 file photo, a home is seen in San Antonio, facing imminent foreclosure without assistance. Just over 31,000 homeowners have received permanent loan modifications under the Obama administration's mortgage relief plan, a big setback for the government's embattled effort to stem the foreclosure crisis.

(AP Photo/Eric Gay, file)

Foreclosure buyer demand dips as supply mounts

By **Lynn Adler**

NEW YORK (Reuters) — U.S. home buyers are less willing to buy foreclosed properties than they were six months ago, citing risks like hidden costs, but demand could grow because of the government's expanded tax credit, a survey showed on Tuesday.

A continued drop in demand for the glut of foreclosed properties would add a fresh layer of pain to a housing market just emerging from a three-year nosedive.

The percentage of Americans at least somewhat likely to consider buying a foreclosed home fell to 43 percent in November, sharply below May's 55 percent, according to a survey by Harris Interactive.

The survey was conducted November 5-9 on behalf of Trulia.com, a real estate search engine, and RealtyTrac, which tracks foreclosures.

Buyer expectations are becoming more realistic, Trulia Chief Executive Pete Flint said on a conference call.

Next year "government interventions will start to disappear, shadow inventory will hit the market and mortgage rates will start to rise" to around 6 percent from under 5 percent, he said. "We're in a false state of stability."

Shadow inventory includes houses that banks now hold but have yet to put up for sale.

Double-digit unemployment will push more owners into foreclosure, further destabilizing the housing market and pressing prices down another 5 to 10 percent, said Flint.

Some closely watched measures show prices have toppled by about 30 percent on average from 2006 peaks. Although prices are rising in some areas, the survey found lingering concern about buying now, when prices could fall still further.

Demand for foreclosed properties, which are often deeply discounted compared with other homes on the market, is of particular concern. RealtyTrac expects over 3 million properties will receive at least one foreclosure notice this year, up from a record 2.3 million last year. About half of those properties will ultimately go back to banks, RealtyTrac said last week. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

AP source: Matsui, Angels reach deal

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — World Series most valuable player Hideki Matsui and the Los Angeles Angels have reached a preliminary agreement on a one-year contract worth about \$6.5 million, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Monday because the contract was not yet final.

“I can confirm that we are in serious discussions with the Angels,” Matsui’s agent, Arn Tellem, wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Tellem declined further comment.

Japanese slugger Matsui surpassed 100 RBIs four times in seven seasons with the Yankees after coming over from Japan, where he was an enormous star. He just completed a \$52 million, four-year contract with New York.

Matsui hit .274 with 28 homers and 90 RBIs last season, then was selected World Series MVP despite starting only three of the six games against Philadelphia. He went 8 for 13 (.615) with three homers and eight RBIs, tying a Series record by driving in six runs in Game 6.

Slowed by surgically repaired knees, the 35-year-old Matsui would replace Vladimir Guerrero as Los Angeles’ primary designated hitter. Guerrero, also hobbled by injuries, will turn 35 in February. Both sluggers are free agents.

Matsui and the Yankees beat Los Angeles in the American



In this Nov. 4, 2009 file photo, Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig, right, gives New York Yankees’ Hideki Matsui the MVP trophy after Game 6 of the Major League Baseball World Series against the Philadelphia Phillies in New York. Matsui and the Los Angeles Angels have reached a preliminary agreement on a one-year contract worth about \$6.5 million, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity Monday, Dec. 14, 2009, because the contract was not yet final.

Associated Press

League championship series last season. The Angels have won three straight AL West titles and five of the past six, but haven’t reached the World Series since winning the 2002 title.

Matsui was among three key free agents on the Yankees. Left-hander Andy Pettitte agreed last week to an \$11.75 million, one-year contract. Talks have stalled with left fielder Johnny Damon, whose agent wants more guaranteed years than the team is willing to offer. □

AP source: Canadian doctor probed in doping case

The official said on Tuesday the investigation was being conducted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The official was not authorized to discuss the case and therefore spoke on condition of anonymity.

Galea’s lawyer denied any wrongdoing at a news conference in Toronto on Tuesday. Attorney Brian H. Greenspan said he expects Galea will face three charges in Canadian court on Friday, but said he was unaware of the FBI’s involvement.

“He looks forward to being vindicated,” Greenspan said. “He’s a physician who has always engaged in lawful practices. He’s never been involved in any improprieties, any misconduct, any unlawful conduct.”

Greenspan said one charge would be for conspiracy, with the other two coming under the Food and Drug Act and the Controlled Substances Act. He did not know the specific charges.

“We can’t conceive of them being anything other than minor,” he said.

Greenspan said the investigation began when the doctor’s assistant, who often drove around Galea, was stopped at the Canada-U.S. border. Human growth hormone and Actovegin, a drug extracted from calf’s blood, were found in Galea’s bag in the car, The New York Times reported.

Using, selling or importing Actovegin is illegal in the United States. □



In this photo taken Nov. 7, 2009, ESPN sportscaster Erin Andrews during the first half of an NCAA college football game against Florida State at Memorial Stadium in Clemson S.C.

Associated Press

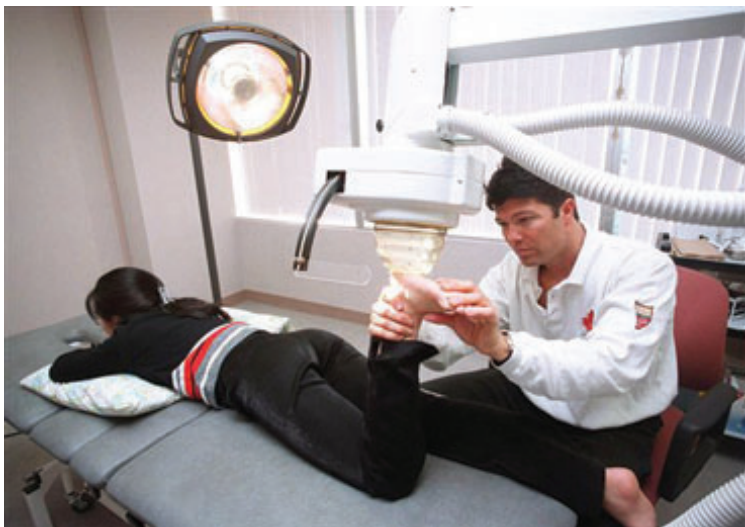
Illinois man admits stalking ESPN’s Andrews

ANTHONY McCARTNEY

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An Illinois insurance executive pleaded guilty Tuesday to secretly shooting nude videos of cable television sports reporter Erin Andrews, who repeatedly called her stalker a sexual predator in court and said she hopes he “never sees the light of day.” Michael David Barrett pleaded guilty to interstate stalking after Andrews urged the judge to give him a harsh sentence and not allow him out on bail. “His actions have had a devastating impact on me and my family,” said Andrews, who attended the hearing with her father and attorney. The ESPN reporter said she is constantly reminded that Barrett’s videos appeared online, subjecting her to cruel taunts from sports fans while working as a sideline reporter. “I don’t know him,” she said. “I haven’t met him. I hope he never sees the light of day.”

U.S. District Judge Manuel Real allowed Barrett, of Westmont, Illinois, to remain free pending sentencing on Feb. 22. □



This Dec. 16, 1999, photo shows Dr. Anthony Galea treating a patient with shock wave therapy at the Institute of Sports Medicine in Toronto.

Associated Press

DEVLIN BARRETT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Canadian doctor who has treated golfer Tiger Woods and many other pro athletes is under a joint U.S.-Canadian investigation for possibly providing performance-enhancing drugs, a U.S. official said.

The official familiar with the investigation said Canadian authorities were investigating Dr. Anthony Galea, who was arrested on Oct. 15 in Toronto, and the FBI was brought into the case.

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NHL Roundup

Flyers beat Bruins 3-1 in 'Classic' preview

BOSTON (AP) — Kimmo Timonen broke a third-period tie with 9:32 left, then added a short-handed empty-netter to lead the Philadelphia Flyers to a 3-1 victory over the Boston Bruins on Monday in a preview of the Winter Classic.

Brian Boucher stopped 26 shots for the Flyers, who had lost 10 of 12 and entered the night tied for the second-fewest points in the NHL.

Vladimir Sobotka scored for Boston, and also had a first-period goal negated by an early whistle. Tim Thomas, making just his fifth start in a month because of an undisclosed injury, made 35 saves for the Bruins.

The longtime rivals are scheduled to meet again on New Year's Day at Fenway Park in the third annual Winter Classic outdoor game.

Thrashers 3, Rangers 2, SO
At New York, Johan Hedberg made 46 saves and then was perfect in two shootout rounds to lift Atlanta over the Rangers.

Ilya Kovalchuk and Vyacheslav Kozlov scored on the Thrashers' only shots in the shootout against Henrik Lundqvist. Hedberg made a pad save on NHL-leading goal scorer Marian Gaborik in the first round, then watched the puck slide off the stick of Ales Kotalik before he could muster an attempt.

Kozlov and Colby Armstrong scored to give Atlanta a pair of one-goal leads in regulation,

but Ryan Callahan and Gaborik — with his 23rd goal — had power-play tallies to get New York even. Rangers rookie defenseman Michael Del Zotto had two assists.

Predators 5, Blue Jackets 3
At Columbus, Ohio, longtime Blue Jackets nemesis Steve Sullivan had three goals for the seventh time in his career, leading Nashville.

In just 39 career games against the Blue Jackets, Sullivan has 16 goals and 27 assists — more points than against any other opponent in his 797-game career.

Patric Hornqvist and Ryan Jones also had goals for the Predators.

Antoine Vermette, Jakub Voracek and R.J. Umberger scored for Columbus, which has won only two of its last 13 games.

Red Wings 3, Coyotes 2
At Detroit, Jimmy Howard made 30 saves and Kris Newbury, Patrick Eaves and Derek Meech scored to lift the Red Wings.

Taylor Pyatt and Radim Vrbata scored for Phoenix and Ilya Bryzgalov stopped 29 shots.

Red Wings' defenseman Jonathan Ericsson injured his left knee on a hit by the Coyotes' Shane Doan. He will be reevaluated Tuesday.

At Uniondale, New York, Nathan Horton scored three times for his second career hat trick as Florida won for just the third time in 13 games.

Michal Repik, Stephen Weiss,

Kamil Kreps and Radek Dvorak added goals for the Panthers (13-14-7).

Jesse Joensuu scored his first goal of the season for the Islanders (12-14-7), which lost for the fourth time in the past five games.

At Montreal, Clarke MacArthur scored a power-play goal 14:41 into the third period as Buffalo extended its winning streak to four games. MacArthur tucked a rebound inside the right post, giving Buffalo its third lead of the game.

Patrick Kaleta, who scored twice in Saturday's 3-2 road win over the New York Rangers, had his second short-handed goal in two games late in the second to put the Sabres up 2-1. Tim Kennedy's third goal 12:33 into the third gave Buffalo a short-lived 3-2 lead. Ryan Miller stopped 21 shots and Andrej Sekera also scored for the Sabres, who are on an 8-2 run.

At Toronto, Francois Beauchemin scored 6 minutes into the third period to break the final tie as Toronto won its first in three meetings this season with their provincial rival.

In other NHL games it was, Atlanta 3, N.Y. Rangers 2, SO; Philadelphia 3, Boston 1; Toronto 3, Ottawa 2; Florida 7, N.Y. Islanders 1; Nashville 5, Columbus 3; Detroit 3, Phoenix 2; Buffalo 4, Montreal 3; Vancouver 3, Los Angeles 1. □



Philadelphia Flyers defenseman Kimmo Timonen of Finland (44) celebrates his goal, a full ice flip into the Boston Bruins empty net, with goalie Brian Boucher in the third period of an NHL hockey game in Boston, Monday, Dec. 14, 2009. The Flyers beat the Bruins 3-1.

Associated Press

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Ingram, McClain lead 6 Alabama AP All-Americans



Alabama's Mark Ingram (22) celebrates his second quarter touchdown as Florida's Brandon Spikes (51) defends during the NCAA college football SEC championship game at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009.

Associated Press

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**

AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK — Alabama will bring a lineup powered by All-Americans into the BCS national championship game. The top-ranked Crimson Tide had six players, including Heisman Trophy winner Mark Ingram, voted to The Associated Press All-America team released Tuesday — more than any other school.

Ingram was a unanimous first-team selection, as was linebacker Rolando McClain. Defensive tackle Terrence Cody was selected for the second consecutive season. Cornerback Javier Arenas, guard Michael Johnson and kicker Leigh Tiffin were also first-teamers.

Stanford running back Toby Gerhart, the Heisman runner-up, and Nebraska defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, who finished fourth in Heisman voting, were also unanimous first-team All-America selections.

Texas quarterback Colt

McCoy was the All-American quarterback, selected to the first team by a panel of 14 AP college football poll voters. Florida quarterback Tim Tebow was a second-team selection. Boise State's Kellen Moore was the third-team quarterback.

McCoy finished third in the Heisman voting last weekend and was a second-team All-American last year.

The senior was joined by his longtime pal and favorite receiver, Jordan Shipley, on the first team. Texas safety Earl Thomas gave the Longhorns three players on the first team, second only to Alabama.

The Crimson Tide and Longhorns play in the BCS national championship game at the Rose Bowl on Jan. 7. Alabama safety Mark Barron made the third-team, giving the Tide seven players who received AP All-America honors. Texas put three players — kicker Hunter Lawrence, center Chris Hall and linebacker Sergio Kindle

— on the third team for a total of six overall.

Florida also had six players make the three teams, including cornerback Joe Haden and tight end Aaron Hernandez as first-teamers.

The SEC was the most represented conference on the first team, with 11 players, including Tennessee safety Eric Berry, South Carolina linebacker Eric Norwood and Georgia punter Drew Butler.

The Big 12 has seven first-team selections, including three of the five offensive linemen.

The tackles were Oklahoma State's Russell Okung and Oklahoma's Trent Williams. Baylor's J.D. Walton was the center.

Finishing out the offensive line was Idaho guard Mike Iupati.

Notre Dame receiver Golden Tate and Clemson running back C.J. Spiller, selected as an all-purpose player, round out the offense.

TCU defensive end Jerry Hughes was the lone representative on all three teams from the unbeaten and No. 3 Horned Frogs. Georgia Tech's Derrick Morgan was the other defensive end.

Michigan State linebacker Greg Jones was the only Big Ten player on the first team.

Florida's twin brother offensive linemen, Mike and Maurkice Pouncey, were selected to the second team. Oregon State receiver James Rodgers made the second team as an all-purpose player and his brother, Jacquizz, was a third-team selection at running back. □

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NFL Roundup

49ers deny sloppy Cardinals NFC West crown

By JANIE McCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The Arizona Cardinals threw away a chance to clinch a second straight NFC West crown.

Alex Smith threw touchdown passes after two of Arizona's seven turnovers, Frank Gore ran for 167 yards and another score and the San Francisco 49ers kept their slim playoff hopes alive with a dominant 24-9 victory Monday night.

With a relentless defensive attack, San Francisco forced the sloppy Cardinals into five first-half turnovers and kept Kurt Warner from finding a groove. Warner threw two interceptions in the opening half after going 130 passes without a pick.

Arizona (8-5) can still clinch the division by winning two of its final three games.

"Getting a win against a team playing great ball that had a chance to clinch the division, we came out and dominated," Gore said. "They let me get in the zone. Any back who gets in that zone, it's hard to stop them."

Gore had his most productive game since Week 2, running over a Cardinals defense that held Adrian Peterson to just 19 yards in a win against Minnesota last week. Gore was certainly motivated for a big night after getting only 30 yards on 22 carries in a season-opening victory at Arizona on Sept. 13.

Smith, coming off a loss at Seattle last week in which he threw for a career-high 310 yards, connected on TD passes to Vernon Davis and Michael Crabtree and finished 19 of 35 for 144 yards. The 49ers (6-7) answered coach Mike Singletary's challenge to make a statement on the national stage against the reigning NFC champions.

The Cardinals had their second game with six or more turnovers of the season, much to the delight of the sellout crowd at Candlestick Park. The 49ers had a franchise-record five forced fumbles, two by safety Dashon Goldson.

"Each of our backs had a

fumble. That's certainly not acceptable," Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt said. "Obviously it was ugly for us. We're all disappointed and embarrassed."

Not long ago, San Francisco hoped this game would be for the division title, but the Niners had lost six of eight following a 3-1 start, including five straight road games by 19 total points since the victory at Arizona. They sure showed up for this one, on a night former San Francisco stars Steve Young and Jerry Rice worked the pregame show for ESPN on the sideline.

"I can't really express to you how proud I am of our team," Singletary said. "That was the thing we talked about all week: 'Let's go out and see how good we can be without killing ourselves.'"

Warner followed the best four-game stretch of his career with a dud — going 16 of 29 for 178 yards with two interceptions and being

sacked four times. Warner, who joined Johnny Unitas as the only quarterbacks to post a passer rating of at least 120 in four straight games, had gone 130 passes without an interception before Goldson picked off a pass intended for Steve Breaston early in the second quarter. Warner later threw another.

And it didn't help matters the Cardinals lost star receiver Larry Fitzgerald early in the second half to a right knee injury after Goldson landed on him. He later returned.

The 49ers forced five turnovers in the first half for the first time since Sept. 14, 1997, against New Orleans. Arizona was shut out in a first half for the first time since Dec. 21, 2008, at New England.

Davis caught his 11th touchdown pass of the season, extending his franchise-record mark by a tight end. Crabtree's second career TD reception was a 35-yard catch 52 seconds before halftime.



San Francisco 49ers tight end Vernon Davis, right, scores a touchdown after catching a five-yard pass from quarterback Alex Smith during the first quarter of their NFL football game against the Arizona Cardinals in San Francisco, Monday, Dec. 14, 2009. At left is Arizona Cardinals safety Adrian Wilson.

Associated Press



In this Nov. 1, 2009, file photo, Minnesota Vikings linebacker Erin Henderson (50) chases the play during an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers in Green Bay, Wis.

Associated Press

Vikings LB Henderson suspended by NFL

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minnesota (AP) — Minnesota Vikings backup linebacker Erin Henderson was suspended for four games by the NFL on Tuesday for violating the policy on performance-enhancing substances.

The suspension covered Minnesota's final three regular-season games and first playoff game. The NFL does not specify the substances for which players test positive.

A message was left seeking comment from Henderson's agent, Brian Mackler. □

Joe Nedney added a 37-yard field goal.

Arizona finally got on the board on Neil Rackers' 48-yard field goal with 5:52 left in the third quarter, then Beanie Wells pounded into the end zone on an impressive second effort on fourth-and-goal from the 1 early in the final quarter. Ray McDonald blocked the extra-point attempt.

Arizona was out of sync from

the start.

The Cardinals jumped offside on three of four snaps during the 49ers' opening drive, which was thwarted when Cardinals defensive lineman Darnell Dockett tipped a batted pass to himself for an interception. San Francisco reviewed the call, but it stood as an interception. Smith had gone 99 attempts without throwing a pick. □

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

NBA Roundup

Celtics win 11th straight, beat Grizzlies

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — The Boston Celtics won their 11th straight game and extended their lead in the NBA standings with a 110-105 win over the Memphis Grizzlies on Monday.

Paul Pierce scored 19 points and Ray Allen and Rajon Rondo added 18 each for Boston, which led by eight points with 2:49 left before Memphis answered with six straight points to get within two with 90 seconds left.

Kevin Garnett's jump shot from the top of the key stopped the rally, and Allen sealed it for the Celtics by hitting a 3-pointer as the shot clock was running out with 17.5 seconds left.

Rudy Gay led the Grizzlies with 23 points.

Nuggets 102, Thunder 93
In Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 31 points — his fourth straight game with at least 30 — as Denver beat Oklahoma City for the fifth straight time.

J.R. Smith added 19 points for the Nuggets, who opened a 3-1/2 game lead atop the Northwest Division.

Kevin Durant led Oklahoma City with 32 points for his ninth straight game of 25 or more, the longest active streak in the NBA.

Trailing by 15 points at halftime, the Thunder managed to get within 96-88 with 57 seconds remaining, but the Nuggets hit all six of their subsequent free throws, posting an 11th win in 12 home games.

Mavericks 94, Hornets 90
In Dallas, the hosts squandered a 21-point lead before recovering to defeat



Memphis Grizzlies' Marc Gasol, middle, of Spain, draws a charging foul on Boston Celtics' Rajon Rondo, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Memphis, Monday, Dec. 14, 2009.

Associated Press

New Orleans.

J.J. Barea scored a season-high 23 points and Dirk Nowitzki scored four of his season-low 10 in the final minute.

After a poor first half New Orleans coach Jeff Bower benched all of his starters except Chris Paul and the Hornets fought back to square the game at 60-60. Stung into action, the Mavericks again took the ascendancy and went ahead 90-83 when Nowitzki made a 20-footer in the final minute of their fourth straight victory.

Paul had 20 points, 16 assists and five steals for New Orleans.

Magic 106, Pacers 98

In Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard overcame a slow start to finish with 21 points and 23 rebounds, leading Orlando past Indiana.

Vince Carter, who missed the previous two days of practice with illness and injury, added 28 points for the Magic.

Mike Dunleavy had 26 points for Indiana, which led 34-17 early in the second quarter, but Orlando got within a point by halftime. Consecutive 3-pointers in the final two minutes opened a decisive eight-point lead.

Timberwolves 110, Jazz 108

In Salt Lake City, Jonny Flynn scored the go-ahead

layup with 3 seconds left as Minnesota edged Utah.

Deron Williams had a season-high 38 points and added 13 assists for Utah, but his 3-pointer just before the final buzzer was off the mark.

Minnesota snapped a four-game losing streak. Two of the Timberwolves meager four wins this season have come against the Jazz.

Flynn finished with 28 points — eight more than he had ever scored in an NBA game, while Corey Brewer tied his career high with 22 points.

The Jazz made just 21 of 37 free throws.

Clippers 97, Wizards 95
In Los Angeles, Eric

Gordon matched his season high with 29 points and hit his final free throw with 11 seconds left to lift Los Angeles past Washington.

Chris Kaman had 11 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter for the Clippers, who overcame a 17-point deficit in the second half.

Caron Butler scored nine of his 20 points in the final 2:43 for the Wizards, including a 3-pointer with 11.8 seconds left.

Gordon's 1-for-2 effort at the line followed, then Washington's Earl Boykins — formerly of the Clippers — lost control of his dribble in the frontcourt with about 4 seconds left.

The Wizards, who lost their fifth straight game by a sum of just 11 points.

In Philadelphia, the hosts snapped a 12-game losing streak, beating Golden State.

Thaddeus Young had 26 points and 14 rebounds, and Allen Iverson scored 20 points in his best game since returning to the 76ers.

Young used an 11-of-15 effort in the first half to give the Sixers a rare comfortable lead.

Corey Maggette's 24 points led the Warriors, who lost a third straight in the finale of a five-game trip.

In other NBA games it was, Philadelphia 117, Golden State 101; Orlando 106, Indiana 98; Boston 110, Memphis 105; Dallas 94, New Orleans 90; Denver 102, Oklahoma City 93; Minnesota 110, Utah 108; and L.A. Clippers 97, Washington 95. □



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UK weddings to Aruba double



PALM BEACH - The sun-kissed Dutch Caribbean island of Aruba is becoming a favorite for loved-up UK couples looking to tie the knot, with bookings for wedding packages for 2010 already at twice the number sold this year.

Page B5

*On The Occasion Of
The 150th Anniversary
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Louis Vuitton Celebrates L'excellence Du Savoir-Faire



Louis Vuitton organised an auction co-hosted by Sotheby's London at its New Bond Street premises, where seven Special Orders, created by masters of savoir-faire, were sold for a total of £495,000.00.

Page B10

Dutch MPs want same-sex marriage in Antilles



A large majority in the Dutch parliament want same-sex couples to have the right to marry in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. The MPs have backed a call to the government by the GreenLeft party to work towards achieving this goal. Same-sex marriage is already legal in the Netherlands and will soon be introduced on the Caribbean islands of Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius when they are given the status of "special local authorities" within the Kingdom of the Netherlands in October 2010. But a majority of Dutch MPs also want this to apply to the Antillean islands of Curacao and Sint Maarten, which are set to gain greater autonomy under new arrangements governing the Netherlands' relations with its former colonies. The Court of Justice for the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba ruled in June that the islands are under no obligation to give same-sex marriage a status on a par with marriage between a man and woman, a ruling which met with a positive response from the Antillean government. □

At Tierra del Sol

Rotary International Golf Tournament Raises Funds for Charity



WEST PUNT -- The President of the Rotary International Club Diego Frankel announced the start of the 10th annual Rotary Golf Tournament, a sold-out event

at Tierra del Sol, on Saturday.

The tournament collected funds for the local Autism foundation, for a Teen Pregnancy project, and for the recently

launched Dress a Child initiative, in conjunction with other Service Clubs, reports Ravee Boolchand, on the organizing committee..

Page B3

A Christmas concert that goes beyond borders



ORANJESTAD - Aruba's Edjean Semeleer, has a premier young balladeer, Christmas present for all his fans, and those that love the classic sound of the holidays.



Edjean's smooth baritone is again featured on his new CD for the season, "Hey, Ta Pasco" and he welcomes some of the island's most beloved performers to join him on stage at the Renaissance Conference Center this Friday evening, December 18, for renditions of seasonal favorites in Papiamentu, English and Spanish. Tickets are only 50 Arubian florins per person, (\$28) for a full

evening of entertainment and fun.

Sharing the spotlight on the CD and on stage is his very talented younger sister Jeanady, and eternal stars, the legendary Dhaddy Brokke & Tony.

If you love a great concert, with a great performer, don't miss. Edjean's CD is available at all island CD stores, and is just the sort of thing to listen to while decorating the tree, or welcoming company for end of the year gatherings; features noted international performer Nancy Ramos too!



At Tierra del Sol

Rotary International Golf Tournament Raises Funds for Charity

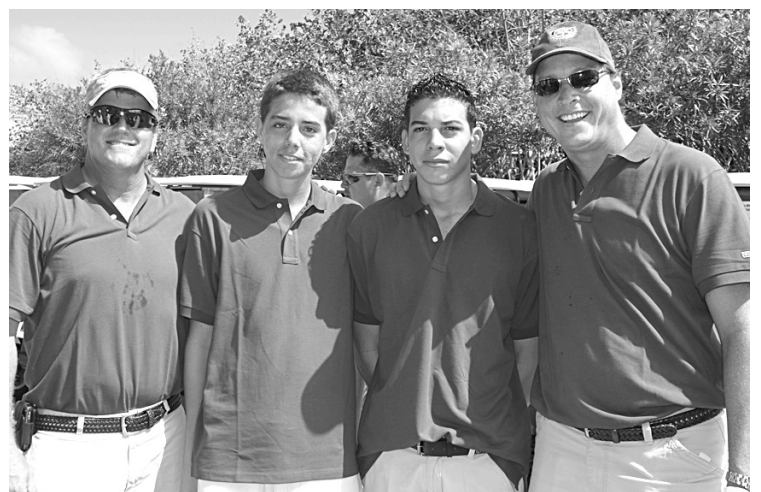


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funds for the local Autism foundation, for a Teen Pregnancy project, and for the recently launched Dress a Child initiative, in conjunction with other Service Clubs, reports Ravee Boolchand, on the organizing committee.



The shotgun-start of the four-man scramble at 12:30 p.m. heralded an excellent day of golf which culminated with an award ceremony and prizes at 6:30 p.m., accompanied by a attractive raffle over delicious barbeque dinner, prepared by Ventanas del Mar restaurant. Garage Centraal offered a Mercedes for a hole in one, and generous other sponsors from the community donated gifts for Closest to Pin and Longest Drive. Head Golf Pro Oliver Reed, together with Golf Pro Adam Williamson welcomed one-hundred and twenty-eight golfers, in thirty-two teams of four to the last golf tournament of 2009. □



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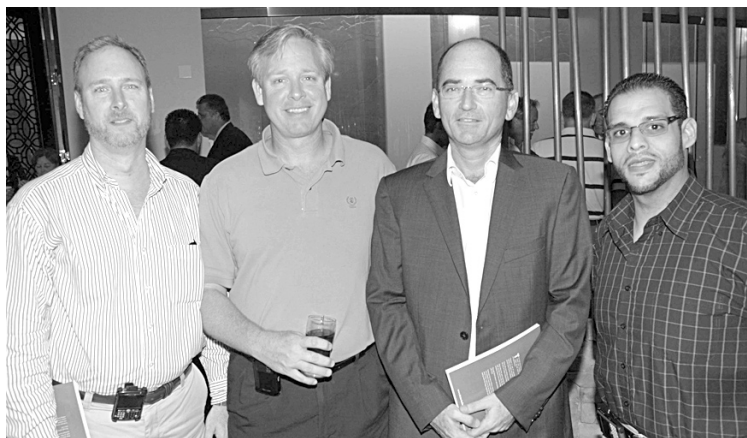
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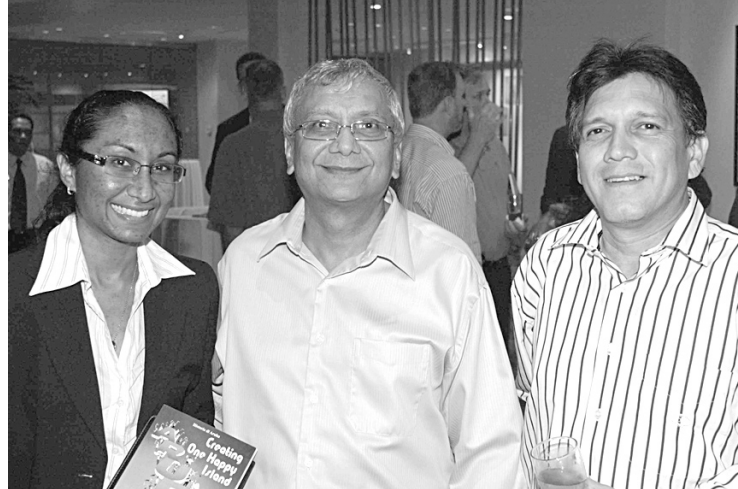
Tourism industry executives connect during AHATA's 'Networking in Style'



ORANJESTAD – Tourism industry executives from AHATA-member companies, their guests and government dignitaries recently got together in the social atmosphere afforded by the Westin Gallery for a “Networking-in-Style” event. The event, held after the recent AHATA General Assembly, provided members and tourism partners representatives a further opportunity to discuss topics of the day in an informal environment.



Executives from a number of members companies were present, including representatives from new member companies. In 2009, AHATA welcomed 15 new members, including SETAR N.V, Gucci, Butterfly Farm, Big Twin, ABC Tours, The Village at Palm Beach, Morgan's Island Aquapark, Boolchand's, Arkefly, Van Eps Kunneman van Doorne, Watapana Tours, Sustainable Solutions, Sensitive Hikers, McDonalds and 44 Graphics.



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During the Networking-in-Style event, members mixed, mingled and also leafed through their souvenir copy of “The Story of Aruba's Tourism: Creating One Happy Island,” by Evert Bongers, which was provided to every member-company attending the recent General Assembly. AHATA pre-ordered 200 copies of the book in order to help realize its publication. The book illustrates the evolution of the island's tourism industry through milestone occasions and profiles and perspectives of industry leaders, including AHATA Board Members Eduardo de Veer and Ewald Biemans.



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UK weddings to Aruba double



Julia Renfro

PALM BEACH - The sun-kissed Dutch Caribbean island of Aruba is becoming a favorite for loved-up UK couples looking to tie the knot, with bookings for wedding packages for 2010 already at twice the number sold this year.

The figures come from leading specialist operators Thomson and First Choice, and the Aruba Tourism Authority is anticipating further growth with increased accessibility from the UK next year, with Thomson Airways offering weekly services to Aruba from both London Gatwick and Manchester as of May 2010.

Aruba's breathtaking sunsets, world-class beaches and year-

round warm weather make the island a picture perfect place for a destination wedding. Couples choosing to get married in Aruba usually opt to have their civil ceremony in the morning at the historic, sea-colored Civil House first, followed by a blessing on the beach or at one of Aruba's luxurious hotels and resorts later in the day.

Joanna Walding, Aruba Tourism Authority UK Director, said, "Aruba is really capturing the imagination of couples looking for a romantic, sun-drenched destination for the wedding of their dreams, with the island's powder white sand beaches and turquoise shores providing the ideal setting".

She continued, "Unlike other popular destinations, most resorts and hotels in Aruba will only hold one ceremony per day so weddings have a more intimate feel - and with Aruba now becoming more accessible than ever to British travelers we are confident that the trend will continue".

All First Choice and Thomson wedding packages include planning and administration (with a wedding representative taking care of all the arrangements); the all-important ceremony at the Civil Town House; venue decoration; marriage license, certificate and registrar fees; a bouquet for the bride and a buttonhole for the groom; wedding cake; and sparkling



Julia Renfro

wine toast.

First Choice offers 14 night holidays in Aruba staying all-inclusive at the 5 Sun Occidental Grand Aruba departing from London Gatwick on the 8th May 2009. Guaranteed to take your breath away, the Occidental

Grand Aruba offers luxury in every sense of the word, with a truly elegant decor, beautiful rooms and countless facilities. Special features like its beach massage service and Japanese garden restaurant make this hotel unforgettable.

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Julia Renfro



Julia Renfro

HUMAN HINTS

Love Is Unity

Love is fourth dimensional energy that holds together the physical realm. Love is the force that holds the three dimensional Universe together. Love is Unity Consciousness, the knowledge that we are all little pieces of the same Unified Source. When someone wants to join with another, they say they are In Love. They feel a desire to combine with another in order to experience Unity in physical Separation.

where Illusion of Separation disappears. This does not have to mean death of the physical body, because beyond all the automatic unconscious reactions of the body, we can control our own perspective. As we become more self-aware, we will learn to see things differently. What is horrendous from one point of view can be beautiful from another, and there is a possibility for every permutation in between.

Love is Unity, the state This is easy to practice

with things that we're not emotionally attached to. When you hear about an event that you don't care about at all, practice seeing it from different points of view. What different things could have motivated the characters? How did their actions hurt and help themselves and others? One single set of facts can support an infinite combination of story lines. Become aware of how the different outcomes might help some people and hurt others. After some practice, learn to change your perspective on topics that do arouse your emotions. Soon, you will be able to see different points of view while you are emotional, a powerful technique for personal transformation.

Unity Consciousness shattered itself into tiny fragments in order to experience limitation, and now we long to fill an illusive emptiness inside each of us, a longing we can neither define nor satisfy. Love is the satisfaction of each person's inherent, core desire for Unity, the sense of Completion that every Human craves. Longing for

Love is the Force behind every human action and pursuit.

Love is the cessation of all Desire. In Love, there is no separation, so there is no desire. There cannot be desire if there is no separation.

How do you find your sense of Ultimate Completion? How do you find True Love? Remember that we're all One, that we only appear to be separate. Once we realize this, we will all be a lot nicer to each other. You can tell something about people's level of enlightenment by how they treat others. When you're enlightened, you know that helping others helps yourself, and hurting others always hurts you more.

Begin your conscious quest for Unity by remembering that we are all from the same Source. In our natural state, we are all One. We are Infinite molecules in a single Ocean. Treat others as if they are you.

Remember that when you curse other people, you curse yourself and when you help

others you automatically help yourself.

Until Tomorrow...


Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger


Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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PG-13	2012	
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PG-13	THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	
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R	KOMT EEN VROUW BIJ DE DOKTER	NEW
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matinee:	late show: 12:00	
PG	ARMORED	NEW
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matinee:	12:15 2:30 late show:	
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□

Double celebration at the Divi Phoenix



PALM BEACH – Margaret Rose, better known as Nina, is the island's newest Ambassador of Goodwill. Nina, from the Boston area, was bestowed the honor by a government representative in return for her friendship and loyalty to the people and this island. Nina has been a repeat visitor for 21 years buying her first

timeshare condo at the fondly remembered Harbourtown, now Renaissance Ocean Suites. She is currently a popular and appreciated member of Divi resorts and enjoys her tropical vacation in the company of local friends, many of them resort employees. John & Janet Kenny have been awarded a certificate of distinction for

their uninterrupted decade of repeat vacations on the island, also from the Boston area.

They first bought into the Divi Phoenix tower more than ten years ago and have been happy since then, on the beach, at the pool, dining at the Sunset Bistro toes in the sand, "what's there not to love," they ask.



Pictured here John and Janet Kenny, with Margaret "Nina" Rose and resort staffers with Mandy Lopez, an official with the Aruba Tourism Authority

who presented both certificates on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, and Lilian Maduro, with guest services at the Divi Phoenix. □

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Aruba Tourism Authority honors Divi Guests



EAGLE – Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority had the pleasure in honoring Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Jane Furtado as well as Mr. and Mrs. Ray and Lorraine Cloutier as distinguished guests to the island of Aruba. Both couples have been visiting Aruba for over a decade, as they enjoy the tranquility, the beaches, great weather, casino's excellent restaurant and the very friendly people. The Furtado's, who are from New Hampshire and the Cloutier who reside in Maine spend their

annual 2 weeks at the Dive Phoenix Resort and enjoy the casinos and believe this will be their year. They consider Aruba "The Paradise in the Caribbean" and wouldn't have it any other way which is why they recommend the island as the ideal vacationing spot to their friends and loved ones.

Present were Lillian Maduro as the representative of Divi Phoenix with Amayra Boekhoudt of the Aruba Tourism Authority who did the honors. □



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Live Music & Entertainment tonight at Casa Tua Barcelona



ORANJESTAD - As of this week our Flamenco Show will be extended with the performance of Kavey Yarzagaray. This Flamenco guitar player will perform together with Angela Croes on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Enjoy your Paella and Sangria together with this fantastic live show! The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating.

The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is also the new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! **A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red**



Snapper, served with Rice and a salad for \$19.95. For entertainment, Casa Tua Barcelona offers rhythms of salsa & bolero & Cha Cha Cha performed by a live band every Saturday Nights! El Latin Son will perform tonight!!

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695. Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470

Fine & Affordable Dining at Pam Pam Restaurant

Meet Chef Ludwich Samson and his exquisite menu now unveiled!



Nestled in the quiet neighborhood of Boegoeroei, Perle d'Or apartment complex houses Dutch students and vacationers, as well as a cozy garden eatery, Pam Pam Restaurant & Bar. Aiming to attract a more diverse clientele, Pam Pam has recently adopted a more upscale dining concept. In order to pilot this new concept, rising local chef Ludwich Samson was brought on board, and in just two months on the job, he has

more than proven his worth.

Laid-back, refreshingly young, and ambitious, Ludwich began his career as a chef by enrolling in Aruba's hospitality and culinary arts school—the best decision he has ever made, he wholeheartedly claims. With ten years in the kitchen and three years as a chef, Ludwich has developed an impressive arsenal of cooking skills. He attributes the majority of his growth as a chef to his years

of working under his mentor, Vittorio Muscarllo, owner of Hostaria Da'Vittorio and one of the most highly respected chefs on Aruba.

In his two months with Pam Pam, Ludwich has entirely remodeled the kitchen to make it more efficient. He has also created a whole new menu featuring particularly unique dishes in order to distinguish Pam Pam from the endless number of restaurants along Aruba's hotel strip. While the menu still offers Dutch snacks and typical Dutch platters like sate to appease the many Dutch interns residing at Perle d'Or, the rest of the menu offers upscale fusion cuisine. Lemon grass and chillies give several seafood dishes a Thai flair; homemade ravioli and beef carpaccio salute Italy; crustacean ceviche adds a Peruvian element; and Indonesian spices add zest to a handful of casual main dishes.

Ludwich also craftily adds little unexpected twists to some classic dishes, elevating the uniqueness of his menu. One of his personal favorites is his porcini-crusted filet mignon served with a thyme red-wine reduction. He also delights in the fact that most diners have a hard time figuring out the sweet and spicy deliciousness of his signature crustacean platter. Other interesting interpretations include lump-crab lollipops, chicken cordon blue unorthodoxly stuffed with ricotta and bacon, and for dessert, tiramisu that promises an untraditional layer of decadent Bailey's chocolate mousse.

Needless to say, Ludwich is creative in the kitchen and works extremely hard, currently putting in 12 to 16 hours a day, seven days a week; but he insists that this is not what makes a good chef good. "I simply love what



I do for a living," confides Ludwich, and this is what guarantees success in the kitchen and contented diners. Of course, being a chef can be downright stressful, but Ludwich thrives on the rush of adrenaline on busy nights. And when he peers out of the kitchen and sees a restaurant full of people enjoying their meals, he experiences immense satisfaction. For reservations call: 5877710 or 7483848, or visit us at www.pampamaruba.com. □

On The Occasion Of The 150th Anniversary Of The Red Cross

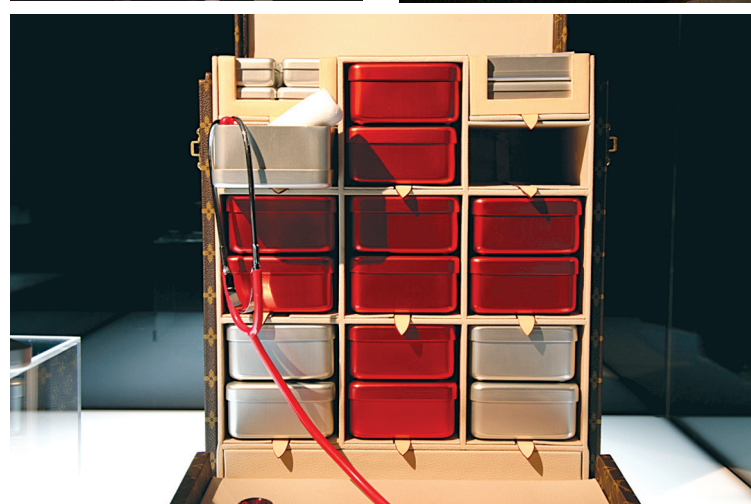
Louis Vuitton Celebrates L'excellence Du Savoir-Faire



Louis Vuitton organised an auction co-hosted by Sotheby's London at its New Bond Street premises, where seven Special Orders, created by masters of savoir-faire, were sold for a total of £495,000.00.

All proceeds from this

auction will be donated to the Nigerien Red Cross Fighting Malnutrition Programme. This programme aims to contribute to the reduction of acute malnutrition and mortality of the most vulnerable population, including expectant and new

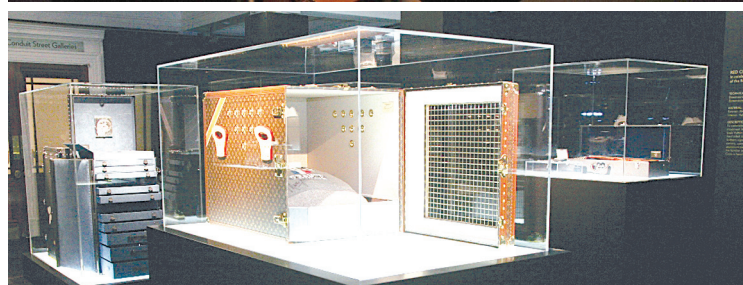


mothers as well as young children under five.

The gala dinner was attended by Tasha de Vasconcelos, Gustavo Santaolalla, Bryan Ferry, Ferran Adria Acosta, Patrick-Louis Vuitton, Yves Carcelle and Antoine Arnault. Louis Vuitton paid tribute to the 150th anniversary of the Red Cross by creating seven limited-edition Special Orders, made in the historical Asnières workshop that celebrates this year a century and a half of savoir-faire, tradition and innovation.

Louis Vuitton offered six masters of savoir-faire the opportunity to create a unique special order that embodies their exceptional expertise in their respective professions. The six personalities are: the chef Ferran Adrià, the artist Damien Hirst, the photographer Annie Leibovitz, the musician and composer Gustavo Santaolalla, the designer Marc Jacobs, Patrick-Louis Vuitton, the head of Louis Vuitton's Special Orders department and a member of the fifth generation of the Vuitton family. To commemorate the event, Louis Vuitton has crafted a limited-edition Red Cross medical trunk. "We are very proud to collaborate with the Red Cross on such an iconic occasion and to offer our support to this exceptional association which for the past 150 years has played a major role in the fight against the instability of this world", says Yves Carcelle, Chairman & CEO of Louis Vuitton.

Cheyenne Westphal, Sotheby's Chairman of Contemporary Art Europe, commented: "The money realised at tonight's gala dinner charity auction is testament to the generosity and skill of each of the six personalities involved and the global luxury brand Louis Vuitton, who collaborated to produce each unique special order. The sum achieved this evening will benefit the Red Cross for their programme 'Fight Against Malnutrition in Niger' and Sotheby's is delighted to have been able to play a role in raising those funds." □





The Holidays are upon us and for many of us that means parties with lots of alcohol. Drinking alcohol in moderation can be fun and sociable, but, is alcohol healthy?

A Danish study found that "Wine drinkers had significantly lower mortality from both coronary heart disease and cancer than did non-wine drinkers." Beer and other alcohol drinkers enjoyed a smaller benefit.

This is good news for some; drinking with the doctor's permission! But wait; if you are not a drinker or suffer from liver disease, gastritis, or high blood pressure, it's not a good idea to start drinking alcohol for the health benefits. However, if you enjoy an occasional drink and are otherwise healthy, go back and read the first paragraph. Drinking "in moderation" is the key. The benefits are only effective when keeping to the recommended levels. To work the right way, alcohol intake should be spread over the whole week and binge sessions, like at a party should be avoided.

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), moderate is defined as 2 drinks a day if you're a male 65 and younger, or 1 drink a day if you're a female or a male 66 and older. 1 drink means 12 oz of beer, 4 oz of wine, 1.5 oz of 80-proof hard liquor, or 1 oz of 100-proof liquor.

Unfortunately, for many having a good time means doing everything to excess which includes overindulgence in alcohol consumption and the ensuing

effect of a hangover. A hangover is the result of a combination of alcohol toxicity, dehydration, and Vitamin A, B and C depletion all caused by alcohol metabolism on your system. The symptoms are usually a dry mouth, nausea, fatigue; dizziness and headache.

Over the years there have been many folk remedies for hangovers. Some of these "cures" come with the toast "The hair of the dog that bit me"! The homeopathic principle of "like cures like" advice given literally in ancient times, "If a dog bites you, put a hair of the dog into the wound" this was distorted to imply that drinking more alcohol would help your hangover.

Apart from the obvious effects, during a hangover you are suffering the effects of a mild overdose of a depressant drug, your nerves are reacting and you have also flushed vitamins and nutrients from your system causing a shock that your body is struggling to fix. This is why hangover symptoms often include disorientation and "the jitters".

Alcohol enters cells and is broken down into a toxin. Your liver converts this toxin into ammonia and acetic acid, which is non-toxic and can be used by your body for energy. By the way, the other name for acetic acid is vinegar! In a hangover ammonia is metabolized in the brain which has only a limited capacity to remove the excess ammonia coming in.

For those of you really partying to overload who include cocaine the news gets worse. Alcohol and cocaine form a

Hair of the Dog

product in your body called cocaethylene. Abusers know that higher alcohol concentrations lead to higher blood cocaine levels. However, high levels of alcohol slow down cocaine metabolism. This slow down may explain why users feel an enhanced euphoria when using the drugs in combination. Regrettably, the risk a sudden death from a heart attack is greatly increased.

So what is a partygoer to do? The best advice is to drink alcohol IN MODERATION avoiding binge drinking, and take red wine in preference to other alcoholic drinks. It's not necessary to have an alcoholic beverage in hand during an entire party. We enjoy sparkling water with a lime between glasses of red wine when socializing. Always eat something either before or while you are drinking. If you have drunk large quantities of alcohol, drink plenty of water afterwards. This will counteract dehydration. Rather than drink coffee the morning after a drinking session, a breakfast consisting of complex carbohydrates, a whole grain cereal right for your metabolic type, a glass of fresh fruit juice and a cup of green tea should bring your blood sugar level up to an acceptable level and help to rehydrate your body.

What not to do! Do not drink alcohol to try to neutralize your hangover. Bloody Mary's only make you progressively more useless as you drink more of

them and slow down the healing process of your body. Do not waste your time with aspirin that will destroy your liver if combined with alcohol. Aspirin can cause sudden death at any time. So prevalent is death by aspirin that in the US that many aspirin induced deaths are listed on "cause" as "natural". Alcohol damages the liver; and aspirin damages the liver; but if you mix the two, the damage is much worse.

The most important natural supplement for a hangover is mineral water that helps rehydrate your body. Natural supplements that help neutralize alcohol byproducts and protect cells against the damaging effects of alcohol include vitamin C, B Complex, the amino acids SAME and glutathione, vitamin E, and selenium. We like to take extra vitamin C & B complex with a liter/qt of water before an evening of festivities. If more help is needed, we provide colon-hydro therapy in our clinic which can help flush out toxins and rehydrate the body quickly.

Get The Point! The Holidays should be spent reconnecting with family and friends in a festive exchange. In ancient times, putting "the hair of the dog that bit you into the wound" did not help prevent infection. Nothing is said about the dog biting you twice as you try to get some of its hair; which is what will happen if you try to



By: Dr. Carlos Viana

cure your hangover with more alcohol. If the festivities have come back to bite you, or you are just looking for healthy ways to celebrate, we are open throughout the season to help you. Salud, Santé, Cheers, To Your Health! CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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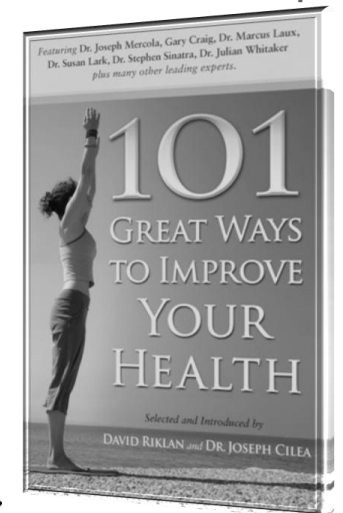
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Richards concerned about crime situation

PHILIPSBURG -- Local Chief of Police Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards expressed concern Sunday about the recent spate of criminal activity in St. Maarten. He called on the Central Government to take note of the situation and requested that Justice Minister Magali Jacoba send police reinforcements from Curaçao immediately.

"The Local Chief of Police is of the opinion that while commitments have been made for a structural approach to addressing law and order on our island, police reinforcements are needed right now," a press release from his office stated.

The release continued: "The Local Chief of Police is extremely worried about the recent spate of robberies and two incidents resulting in loss of life last week in St. Maarten."

"These senseless killings deserve our collective condemnation and cannot be allowed to continue without an appropriate response by authorities. Any and all lives taken should be condemned and so should be all acts of violence in our community," Richards was quoted as saying.

He said the recent killings and

the repeated reports of home invasions, armed robberies and other violent incidents were indicative that the criminal element continued operating with disdain for life and public safety.

He also contended that the current situation was truly alarming and required the immediate response of the authorities responsible for guaranteeing safety and security for the people of St. Maarten.

He said the public and operators of businesses had no other choice but to stay alert at all times in an effort to aid authorities in their ongoing efforts to apprehend suspects still at large.

"All of us need to stay alert and recognise that we need to do more in order to safeguard against the innocent loss of life," Richards stressed.

The press release continued: "With the Christmas holiday season approaching, St. Maarten can expect additional visitors on our shores. This creates an additional challenge to law enforcement agencies already trying to cope with insufficient personnel charged with maintaining law and order."

"Residents and business establishments will do well to

remind themselves, employees and security staff of what to do and what not to do before, during and after coming face to face with, for example, armed criminals, especially during this holiday season.

"Whereas St. Maarten is still a relatively safe place to live, this is not to say that there is no need to address the expressions of fear that are once more being voiced."

"The appropriate role of particularly the Central and Kingdom Governments should be to provide support

and technical assistance. [Lt.] Governor Richards says that he remains in favour of greater police visibility with the presence of more police officers on the streets, intensified controls, and increased cooperation with the Marechaussees and RST team, as well as temporary police reinforcements from Curaçao. "The Local Chief of Police meanwhile reminds victims of crime and persons witnessing or suspecting crimes to report these to police authorities immediately." □

Whale stranded in Curacao bound for CA marine park

The Associated Press

WILLEMSTAD, Curacao—A pilot whale that became separated from its pod and beached itself on the southern Caribbean island of Curacao is heading for a U.S. marine park after biologists determined the animal likely would not survive in the wild.

SeaWorld San Diego has applied for a permit from the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service to move the whale to Southern California, where it would live with two other pilot whales, park spokesman David Koontz said Monday. It wasn't yet known when the transfer, by cargo plane, would take place. The pilot whale, which is 3 to 4 years old, has been under the care of the Southern Caribbean Cetacean Network since July, when it washed ashore in the Dutch Caribbean island of Curacao, dehydrated and underweight.

Volunteers and local biologists pushed it into the water and nursed it back to health in a mesh pen in Jan Thiel Bay. They named the pilot whale "Captain Sully" in honor of airline pilot Capt. Chesley Sullenberger, who guided his crippled jetliner into the Hudson River at New York City.

George Kieffer, chairman of the Southern Caribbean Cetacean Network, said the animal has regained its strength and can swim far out to sea, but it would not join a pod of pilot whales when it had the chance last month. Experts have concluded that Captain Sully likely would not survive because pilot whales are social animals that feed in groups by corralling squid.

"We basically exhausted every other option before we decided he needs permanent human care," Kieffer said.

Pilot whales are members of the dolphin family and can grow up to 20 feet long. □

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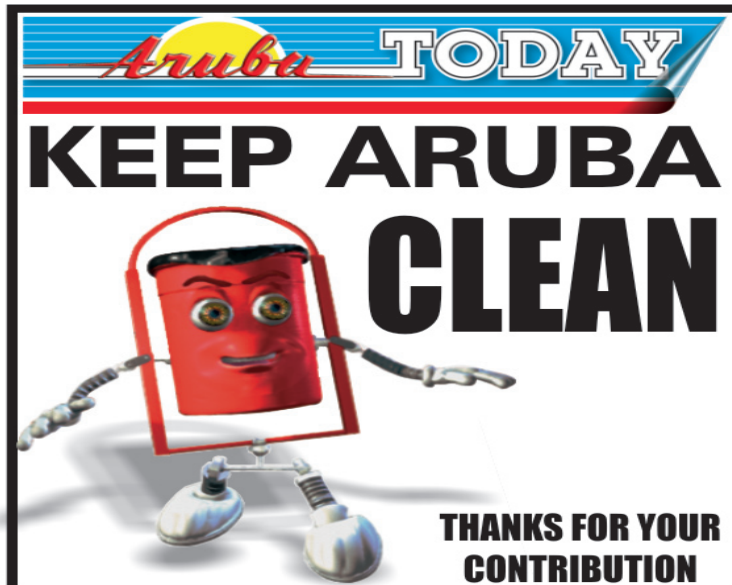


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SAN NICOLAAS
Linden v/d

Botica na warda

Oranjestad:
Botica Dakota
San Nicolaas:

Police

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Noord 587-0009
Sta. Cruz 585-4710
Savaneta 584-7000
San Nicolas 584-5000

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Polis 100
Brandweer 115
Brandweer II 582-1108
Tipline di Polis 11141
Hospital 587-4300

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Ambulance 582-1234
Warda Polis 582-4000
BGD Oranjestad 582-8877

San Nicolas
Ambulance 584-5050
Warda Polis 584-5000
BGD San Nicolas 584-1606
Valero Security 584-1720

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Aruba (FADA) Tel: 583-2999
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Bolivia dice veto comercial EEUU es “decisión política agresiva”

LA PAZ (Reuters) - Bolivia dijo el martes que su exclusión por segundo año consecutivo de un programa de preferencias comerciales de Estados Unidos era una “decisión política agresiva” que dificultaba las conversaciones para normalizar las relaciones bilaterales.

El presidente en ejercicio, Alvaro García, dijo que Bolivia estaba preparada para el castigo comercial, que atribuyó a una visión de “imperialismo decadente” que castiga no sólo al país sudamericano sino a toda la región.

García hizo el comentario

al día siguiente de que la Cámara de Representantes estadounidense mantuviera al margen a Bolivia de una ampliación, hasta diciembre del 2010, del Sistema Generalizado de Preferencias (GSP, por sus siglas en inglés) y de otro programa para los países andinos conocido como ATPDA.

La renovación del GSP y el ATPDA en favor de Colombia, Ecuador y Perú, dejando afuera a Bolivia, “es una acción política contra el pueblo boliviano, que no ayuda en nada a la construcción de vínculos de trabajo conjunto y fraterno”, afirmó García en

conferencia de prensa.

Las relaciones entre Bolivia y Estados Unidos están en crisis desde hace más de un año, cuando el presidente Evo Morales expulsó al embajador y a la agencia antidrogas norteamericanos, acusándolos de injerencia en la política interna.

Washington, que replicó expulsando al embajador altiplánico de Estados Unidos, puso a Bolivia en una lista negra de países que supuestamente colaboran en la lucha contra el narcotráfico y la excluyó del ATPDA.

“La consideramos como una decisión política agresiva, estamos preparados para ella, como país soberano asumimos nuestras tareas para garantizar mercados, recursos para apoyar a empresarios exportadores” afectados por la falta de incentivos arancelarios para exportar a Estados Unidos, dijo García.



El presidente de Bolivia, Evo Morales, participa en la cumbre del ALBA en La Habana, 13 dic 2009. REUTERS/Desmond Boylan

Costa Rica expande diplomacia a India

SAN JOSE (AP) - El gobierno costarricense continuará su política de expansión diplomática con la apertura en enero de una embajada en India, informó el martes el canciller Bruno Stagno.

Acompañado por el presidente Oscar Arias, el canciller detalló en rueda de prensa que la apertura de la embajada en India costará unos 120.000 dólares.

“Hemos dejado una huella importante... yo soñaba a Costa Rica como una potencia moral, no económica ni militar... Le hemos devuelto la dignidad a la política exterior”, comentó Arias, en tanto Stagno resaltó que el interés en Asia no solo es comercial, sino político. “No podemos estar ausentes de esa zona”, alegó. La administración de Arias dio impulso a las relaciones exteriores, con el comienzo de nexos con casi 20 naciones, entre esas China, Singapur y varias del Oriente Medio. La más reciente decisión fue con Cuba en marzo anterior y el nombramiento del respectivo embajador en septiembre.

Stagno reconoció que en años pasados cerraron embajadas y consultados, sobre todo en América y Europa por restricciones presupuestarias, pero destacó que el país necesitaba llenar “el enorme vacío en Asia”. Aunque reconoció que buscaban hacer lo mismo en Africa, dijo que “eso quedará en deuda todavía” por falta de fondos.

Ambos coincidieron en que una de las tareas pendientes para Costa Rica y la región centroamericana es la normalización de la situación política en Honduras, con el fin de poder reanudar las negociaciones para la firma de un acuerdo de asociación con la Unión Europea (UE). □

Editorial le pide a presidente Uribe descartar un tercer mandato

CALI, Colombia (El PAIS) - El presidente Álvaro Uribe se ha presentado como una alternativa al ‘Chavismo’ en América Latina y, como tal, tiene la obligación de fortalecer la democracia en vez de buscar la reelección, afirmó este martes un editorial del diario The Washington Post.

“Uno de los presidentes más exitosos de Colombia está poniendo en peligro su legado así como la causa de la democracia en la región. Es hora de que el señor Uribe le haga a su país un último gran servicio- que descarte un tercer mandato consecutivo-”, agregó el editorial.

El diario criticó el “nuevo populismo autoritario” en América Latina que, entre otras cosas, ha eliminado los límites al mandato presidencial en países como Venezuela, donde el presidente Hugo Chávez logró reelegirse. El editorial hizo mención del caso de Bolivia, donde el presidente Evo Morales ganó la reelección y ha sugerido que buscará un tercer mandato.

También se nombró el caso de Nicaragua, donde el presidente Daniel Ortega se apoyó en el Tribunal Supremo para suprimir los

límites a su mandato, y el de Honduras, donde hubo sospechas de que el ahora depuesto presidente, Manuel Zelaya, intentaba eliminar los límites a su mandato.

Las naciones que han intentado dejar atrás una historia de ‘caudillos y golpes’ tienen la obligación, según el Washington Post, de “establecer un modelo para una alternativa clara basada en el imperio de la ley” y no en gobiernos autoritarios.

“Por eso es importante que el hombre en que tantas maneras personifica la alternativa al Chavismo, el presidente colombiano Álvaro Uribe, se comprometa firmemente a no buscar un tercer mandato en las próximas elecciones presidenciales”, enfatizó el editorial. Señaló, además, que bajo Uribe, Colombia ha registrado una “caída precipitosa” en los homicidios y secuestros, lo contrario de Venezuela, donde han aumentado.

Aunque gane o pierda esa consulta, continuó el diario, “el proceso amenaza con interrumpir seriamente la campaña presidencial y haría extremadamente difícil que los partidarios de Uribe respalden a otro candidato antes de la elección”. □



En Honduras:

Zelaya y Micheletti afirman que no renunciarán

TEGUCIGALPA (AP) - Ni el derrocado presidente Manuel Zelaya ni el mandatario de facto Roberto Micheletti están dispuestos a renunciar, pese a que el jefe de estado electo Porfirio Lobo debería asumir el poder en Honduras el 27 de enero.

“No renunciaré al mandato que me otorgó el pueblo”, expresó Zelaya en un comunicado.

“No renunciaré, aunque me lo pidan el mundo y algunos países que nos ven con odio”, dijo el martes Micheletti a la estación HRN. Zelaya continúa refugiado en la embajada brasileña tras llegar subrepticamente a Tegucigalpa el 21 de septiembre. En el comunicado, Zelaya dijo que no renunciará “al mandato que me otorgó el pueblo y con dignidad y honor, seguiré defendiendo los principios democráticos y buscando soluciones justas que permitan transformar a Honduras”.

Recordó que han transcurrido 170 días

desde el 28 de junio, “fecha en la que como presidente elegido por el pueblo fui secuestrado y desterrado a Costa Rica por un golpe de Estado militar”.

Micheletti insistió en que “el único que me puede destituir es el congreso... y a la comunidad internacional no le importa si yo estoy en el poder un día más o un día menos”.

Micheletti recordó que antes de las elecciones del 29 de noviembre planteó la posibilidad de dimitir “para evitar desórdenes”, pero aclaró que “los comicios fueron libres y transparentes”. “Hoy, a 44 días de que asuma el nuevo gobierno, no considero renunciar y concluiré el periodo que el congreso me fijó”, agregó a HRN. En un intento de solucionar la crisis política generada por el golpe, ambas partes suscribieron el 30 de octubre el Acuerdo Tegucigalpa-San José, el cual Zelaya dio por fracasado poco después. □



El presidente de facto de Honduras, Roberto Micheletti (foto), dijo el martes que no renunciará, como ha pedido el mandatario electo en busca de alternativas para dejar atrás REUTERS/Oswaldo Rivas/Archivo

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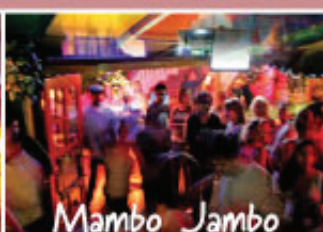
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